



Urban District of Horncastle

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

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HORNCASTLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health
1967

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

Medical Officer of Health

S.A. O'HAGAN, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector

H. SMITH, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

The Medical Officer is also Medical Officer for Woodhall Spa Urban District, Horncastle and Welton Rural District Councils.

The Public Health Inspector is also Surveyor, Housing, Allotments and Markets Manager.

There is a Public Health Committee which deals with all matters affecting Public Health, other than Housing.

Members of the Committee :-

F. Townley
D.M. Cook
J.M. Drakes
K. Engleghart
U.G. Spratt
J.W. Simpson

To The Chairman and Members of
Horncastle Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In introducing my annual report for 1967, it is interesting to observe the forces acting on a local authority, both within its own district and outside. Outside the district, the greatest impact is made by Central Government in new legislation and variation of duties under existing laws. Within the district, the principal causes of change are concerned with population structure - the proportion of the people within such important age groups as "working age", retired, infants, school children, women of child-bearing age. The actual and anticipated numbers in each group are the primary determinants in the provision of services by District and County Councils. In some circumstances the stress of city life causes family breakdown and an appreciable number of "family casualties" arrive in Horncastle and make demands which hardly arise among the indigenous population. We see, in fact, a similar emotional reaction against these British "immigrants" as has been noted against coloured immigrants to the country as a whole and this may serve as a warning. We can see "houses in multiple occupation" as somebody else's problem, but we must not shut our eyes to the similar problems arising from caravan sites where "apartments" are let for gain and with shared facilities which might be quite acceptable to holiday makers of stable families but which are the source of friction to families already broken and under stress. There is, therefore, a pressing demand for rehousing, at any rate, for the good of the children, but there is the prospect that an unending succession of broken families will arrive and make their unhappy plight the basis of an housing application. Senior councillors recall the similarity with the old "Lodging house" problem. It is not a problem unique to Horncastle but it tends to be more obvious where the problem exists in a compact community. Rural districts have their own type of problem with the itinerant farm worker of doubtful efficiency, often squatting in a tied cottage after losing his right to service tenancy. Such problem families as they may have as immigrants from cities tend to become obscured by distance and though the problems may be just as acute, they are less readily recognised.

This Council has recognised the need of the elderly for more small dwellings adapted to their needs. The number of old people has been rising during the last twenty years but will not now tend to increase at the same rate. A higher proportion of the retired group will be approaching "late old age" at which stage, services in addition to proper housing, become necessary unless these can be provided by children. Services such as meals on wheels visiting, chiropody, etc., are thus of increasing importance.

The custom of leaving the home town in early adult life to seek ones fortune increases the burden on those left behind, yet the atmosphere of a small town is more conducive to a happy retirement then perhaps, following the children around might be.

The high birth rate of the past few years warns us of other problems either on our doorstep or round the corner. These babies are a stimulus to the County to provide a better clinic facility but, by the time it emerges, if it ever does, they will no longer be in the appropriate age group and pressure will be on for a new infant school. A few years on from that, unless they leave Horncastle in search of work, there will be an increased demand for family housing. They will however, leave Horncastle unless further industry can be persuaded to establish itself. This is, no doubt, the most pressing problem for towns like Horncastle.

I have referred to the changing pattern of population"age distribution. A similar change has occurred in the pattern of health in children, largely as a result of the National Health Service and it is now rare to discover untreated physical defects at school medical examinations which are unrecognised by parents or family doctors. Visual and hearing defects may be recognised by technicians employing screening techniques or they may be brought to notice by observant teachers or parents.

What may be less obvious and justify extra time is the assessment of any child's inadequate performance in school or abnormal behaviour. It is too easy to attribute these things to limited understanding whilst such problems as intermittent deafness can be easily labelled inattentiveness. Changes are being made in the procedure of the School Health Service to scrap routine examinations other than the initial one, and to devote the time thus available to a more frequent supervision of known or suspected handicaps.

This will, of course, place more onus on teachers to look critically at each child in his work and play and bring forward any in whom there is cause for concern. For this purpose, schools will, it is hoped, be visited more frequently.

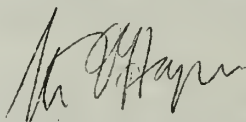
In the preventive field, too, it is satisfactory to record the County Council's acceptance of a responsibility in Family Planning.

There is a long way to go, however, in developing medically supervised planning in place of the self-instituted methods so widely used at present. It is unrealistic to expect women, especially those with young children to trail to Lincoln or Boston.

At the time of writing, the Ministry of Health has just announced its blessing on an anti-measles campaign and I look forward to the time when this almost universal scourge of childhood is eliminated. I foresee that there will be a very great demand as soon as it is available.

Environmentally, the town continues to make reasonable progress. Schemes by the Council costing several hundred pounds per head of population represent a major outlay, especially when the high cost of borrowing is considered. To complement this, a considerable amount of private building work is in hand, so that the total investment in current projects runs into many hundreds of thousands of pounds. Ahead of actual expenditure, a great deal of thought is devoted to anticipating the variety of problems likely to arise in the future - road traffic increases faster than facilities for its reception at present and is thus a case in point. Prevention of deaths by accidents is as vital as any other preventive measures. As the loss of rail transport forces more road traffic through Horncastle it is well to remember that the narrow streets and tight corners reduce speed to a level with which the mere pedestrian can cope. Serious road accidents are conspicuously absent. This confirms the saying that "Speed Kills". Nevertheless, slow progress through congested streets causes frustration and possibly contributes to rash driving outside the congested areas and, with this in mind, bypassing the town is admirable whereas the cheaper internal relief road is fraught with hazard, since it would separate the bulk of new houses from shops and schools, whilst proximity to the river is uninviting to any proposal for a pedestrian subway.

I remain,
Your obedient Servant,



Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICAL SECTION

AREA OF URBAN:	1421 acres
REGISTRAR GENERAL'S ESTIMATE OF MID-YEAR POPULATION:	4000
DENSITY OF POPULATION PER ACRE:	2.82
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES:	1497

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>
Male	25	47	34
Females	26	34	45
	<u>51</u>	<u>81</u>	<u>79</u>
Live births rate per 1000 population	13.3	20.5	19.8
Standardized birth rate per 1000 population	13.6	20.9	20.2
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	7.8%	9.9%	8.6%
National Live Birth Rate (1967)		17.2 per 1000	

<u>Still Births</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>
Male	0	0	1
Female	1	0	1
	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>

Number per 1000 total live and still
births 24.7

Infant Deaths (i.e. under 1 year of age)

Total Infant Deaths per 1000 total live births	51
Legitimate Infant Deaths per 100 illegitimate total live births	0
Illegitimate Infant Deaths per 1000 Illegitimate total live births	0

Neonatal Mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks
per 1000 total live births) 51

Early Neonatal Mortality rate (deaths under 1
week per 1000 total live births) 51

Perinatal Mortality rate (still births and deaths
under 1 week per 1000 live and still births) 74

Maternal Mortality

Number of Deaths 0

Rate per 1000 total live and still births 0

<u>Deaths</u>	Male	25
	Female	26
	Total	<u>51</u>

Crude death rate per 1000
estimated population 12.8

Standardized death rate per 1000
estimated population 12.5

Death rate England and Wales per
1000 estimated population 11.2

	Males			Females		
	Total	Legit	Illegit	Total	Legit	Illegit
Live Births	34	32	2	45	40	5
Still Births	1	1	0	1	0	1
Deaths of Infants						
Under 1 year of age	1	1	0	3	3	0
Under 4 weeks of age	1	1	0	3	3	0
Under 1 week of age	1	1	0	3	3	0

Causes of Death as shown in the Registrar General's Short List

Short List No.	Cause of Death	Sex	Total All Ages	Under 4 weeks	4 Weeks & under 1 Year	Age in Years								75 & over
						1 - 5	5 - 15	15 - 25	25 - 35	35 - 45	45 - 55	55 - 65	65 - 75	
9.	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
15.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	M	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3
16.	Diabetes	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
18.	Coronary Disease, Angina	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
20.	Other Heart Disease	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
21.	Other Circulatory Disease	F	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
24.	Bronchitis	M	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	2
32.	Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	F	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
33.	Motor Vehicle accidents	M	6	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	1
34.	All other accidents	F	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total All Causes		25	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	3	-	-	9
			26	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	10	-	14

Causes of Death at ages below 65 years

Female 57 years - Pulmonary Embolism
Male 64 " - Herpes Zoster and Leukaemia
Female 62 " - Cerebral Thrombosis
Female 60 " - Cancer of the breast
Male 60 " - Chronic Bronchitis
Male 1 day - Prematurity
Female 2 " - Subarachnoid Haemorrhage
Male 61 years - Pyelonephritis
Male 17 " - Industrial Accident
Female 63 " - Carcinoma
Female 40 " - Cancer of the breast

No one disease shows a significant ascendancy in this list, if the various types of cancer are not lumped together. However, an element of life-saving is possible in cancer of the breast if only early treatment is instituted.

Maternal Mortality

Nil

Infectious Diseases as Notified to the Medical Officer of Health

	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>
Measles	12	8	4	140
Whooping Cough	1	7	0	14
Erysipelas			1	0
Scarlet Fever			1	1
Pneumonia (Primary)	1	1	0	0
" (Influenzal			2	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis				1

Preventive Measures

The public response to the usual four preventions - polio and triple remains good, and now that measles vaccine is available, demand exceeds supply.

Reactions in a few cases have been quite sharp but short, and we shall never know whether these few children were those who, but for vaccination, would have suffered worst had they caught natural measles.

Tuberculosis vaccination is popular, with a big majority of children taking advantage of it.

Food Hygiene Regulations

At the request of the Ministry of Health I include a table of premises subject to the Food Hygiene Regulations:-

	Complying with Reg.16.	To which Reg. 19 applies	Fitted to comply with Reg.19
Hotels and Public Houses	14	14	14
Cafe's, Restaurants, Snack Bars	4	4	4
Butchers	7	7	7
Bakers	3	3	3
Fruiters and Greengrocers	5	N/A	N/A
Sweet Shops	3	N/A	N/A

Milk Supplies Brucella Abortus

Milk sampling is carried out by the County Authority and any positive result communicated to me for action.

No case arose during the year in which action involved the Urban District in which the entire milk supply is pasteurized or sterilized.

Liquid Egg(Pasteurization) Regulations 1963

No such plant operates in the district.

Poultry Inspection

One packing unit operates in the district and is conveniently situated adjacent to this office, from which the meat inspector works.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The new works is rapidly approaching readiness for use and it is anticipated that it will be taken into use around December, 1968. It has been planned to allow extension for development of the town, which is tending to grow naturally, without any artificial development.

Water Supply

This has been satisfactory throughout the year.

REPORT OF WORK DONE BY PUBLIC HEALTH
INSPECTOR DURING THE YEAR
1967

HOUSING

Total Number of dwelling houses and flats in district	1497
Total Number of new houses erected during the year :-	
(1) By Local Authority	0
(2) By other Local Authorities	0
(3) By other Bodies or Persons	10
(4) Number allocated for replacing houses subject to Demolition Orders or otherwise demolished	2

Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year	
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	187
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	195

Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices	
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	34

Action under Statutory Powers during the year	
(1) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts	None
(2) Proceedings under the Housing Acts	None
(3) Slum Clearance - proceedings under the Housing Acts	
(a) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made (Individual unfit houses only)	9
(b) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	None
(c) Number of dwelling-houses, or parts, subject to Closing Orders	4
(d) Number of dwelling-houses, or parts, rendered fit by undertakings	1
(e) Number of dwelling-houses included in confirmed Clearance Orders	None
(f) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance thereof	None
(g) Total number of dwelling-houses on which Demolition Orders are operative and which are still occupied except under the provisions of Sections 34, 35 and 46 of the Housing Act, 1957	None
(h) Total number of dwelling houses occupied under Sections 34, 35 and 46 of the Housing Act, 1957	None
(i) Houses demolished or closed voluntarily by owners which would otherwise have been the subject of statutory action to secure demolition or closure	4

(4)	Nissen huts or other similar hutments	None
(5)	Estimated number of dwellings, excluding those under paragraph (4) above; remaining to be dealt with under	
(a)	The Housing Act, 1957, Sections 16 and 18	34
(b)	The Housing Act, 1957, Section 42	None

HOUSING ACTS - OVERCROWDING

(a)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	3
(b)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	11
(c)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	N/K
(d)	Number of families dwelling therein	-
(e)	Number of persons dwelling therein	-

HOUSING ACTS 1949 - 59

	Number of dwellings for which applications for grants have been received	
(a)	Standard Grant	14
(b)	Discretionary Grant	0
	Number of dwellings subject to grant	
(a)	Standard Grant	14
(b)	Discretionary Grant	0
	Number of houses owned by Local Authority which have been the subject of grant aid by the Ministry	0

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS, TENTS, VANS, ETC.

	Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960	
	Number of site licences	10
	Total number of caravans permitted under such licences	46
	Number of inspections during the year - sites	12
	- caravans	18
	Number of contraventions remedied	0

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

	Number of site licences	0
	Number of individual licences	0

FOOD PREMISES

	BAKEHOUSES	
	Number in district	4
	Number of inspections	8
	Number of contraventions	0
	Defects remedied	0

ICE CREAM

Number of manufacturers on register	0
Number of premises licensed for the sale of ice cream	19
Number of inspections of premises made	24
Number of contraventions found	3
Number of contraventions remedied	3
Number of samples	0

MEAT PRODUCTS

Number of premises registered for manufacture of meat products	6
Number of inspections made	14
Number of contraventions found	2
Number of contraventions remedied	2

OTHER FOOD PREMISES

Number of other food premises (i.e. excluding bakehouses, and premises registered for manufacture of ice cream and meat products)	19
Number of inspections	24
Number of contraventions found	2
Number of contraventions remedied	2

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

Number licensed -- Private (individual)	2
-- Abattoir Type	0
Number operated by Local Authority	0

UN SOUND FOOD - CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED
IN WHOLE OR PART

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed	640	0	35	1903	1372
Number inspected	640	0	35	1903	1372
All diseases except T.B. and Cysticerci					
Whole carcasses condemned	0	0	1	0	0
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	51	0	3	62	38
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than T.B. and cysticerci	7.969	0	11.429	3.258	2.77
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses condemned	0	0	0	0	0
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	0	0	0	0	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0	0	0	0	.219
Cysticercosis					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1	0	0	0	0
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	0	0	0	0	0
Generalised and totally condemned	0	0	0	0	0

OTHER FOOD CONDEMNED

48 Assorted tins of meat and vegetable products
26 lbs frozen liver

Method of disposal of condemned foods -

Meat - Collected for Iwel Laabs Plant

Other Foods - Buried at refuse tip.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Closets

Number of houses with privy vaults in district	0
Number of houses with pail closets in district	4
Number of houses with water closets in district	1493
Number of water closets substituted for pail closets and privy vaults	1
Do Council operate pail closet emptying service?	No
Cesspools and septic tanks	0

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Details of areas or villages where provision has been made of new sewers or where existing sewerage arrangements improved:-

Small sewerage extensions into Low Teynton Road.

Small sewerage extensions planned along Spilsby Road.

Details of areas or villages where provision has been made of new sewage disposal facilities or existing arrangements improved:-

New disposal works now being constructed.

Any part of district urgently requiring public sewers and/or treatment for public health reasons (state briefly reasons)

No.

WATER SUPPLIES

Domestic

Number of houses supplied from public mains-- in house 1466

- by standpipe/outside tap 31

Number of houses supplied from private sources

- in house 0

- not in house 0

Number of houses with unsatisfactory supplies

0

Number of houses supplied therefrom

0

Any part of district requiring a public supply or the replacement of a supply for public health reasons

No

Number of samples taken for bacteriological examination

Satisfactory 42 Unsatisfactory 0

Swimming Pools and Paddling Pools

Number in operation - swimming pools

1

- paddling pools

1

Number fitted with continuous mechanical filtration

- swimming pools

1

- paddling pools

1

Number of samples of swimming pool water taken - Chlorine comparator tests taken daily

GENERAL

Offensive Trades	
Number of premises in district	1
Number of inspections	6
Contraventions remedied	0

Knackers Yards	
Number licensed	1
Number of inspections	6
Contraventions remedied	0

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963	
Number of premises licensed	68
Number of inspections	33
Number of defects	8
Number remedied	8

Disinfection and Disinfestation	
Rooms or premises disinfected	0
Number of premises subject to disinfestation	0

Refuse Collection and Disposal	
Number of premises from which refuse is collected	1688
Frequency of collection	weekly
Type of Receptacle	bins
Method of disposal	Controlled Tip
Is this satisfactory?	Yes
Number of tips	1
Number of refuse collection vehicles	1

Details of nuisances abated	After Informal Intimation	After Statutory Notice
Refuse	6	-
Foul ditches, ponds and stagnant water	1	-
Drainage	5	-
Poultry and Animals	0	-
Dangerous Premises	0	-
Miscellaneous Nuisances	2	-
	14	

Rats and Mice Destruction	
Number of rodent operatives employed	Contract Work
Number of premises treated	
(a) dwellinghouses	59
(b) other premises	30
Are there any serious reservoirs of rats in the district?	No
Does service cover (a) domestic and business premises only	No
(b) domestic, business and agricultural premises	Yes

Atmospheric Pollution	0
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FACTORIES ACT, 1961

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	3	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	43	41	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out - workers' premises)	4	22	-	-
TOTAL	48	66	-	-

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Insp.	by H.M. Insp.	
Want of Cleanliness	2	2	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	2	2	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	5	5	-	-	-

